

“Date”

Ms. Stephanie Goudeau
Interim Director
Slaughter Community Charter School
4311 DeLee Lane
Ethel, Louisiana 70730

RE: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-271

Dear Ms. Goudeau:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its June 4, 2021 meeting, considered your request to approve a disqualification plan regarding matters that may arise out of the employment of your husband, Jacob Goudeau, as a teacher and coach at Slaughter Community Charter School, since your promotion to Interim Director of the Slaughter Community Charter School.

FACTS PROVIDED

You provided that Jacob Goudeau was hired by Slaughter Community Charter School as a certified teacher and coach in January 2013. In September 2014, you were hired by Slaughter Community School. In January 2021, you were promoted to Interim Director.

You submitted a disqualification plan to avoid any potential conflict of interest. This disqualification plan provides that Peggy Reno, the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, will supervise Jacob Goudeau, including completing any professional evaluations; overseeing his professional growth plan and student learning goals; and, approving his vacation leave requests. In addition, the school board president, Melissa Wyatt, together with the Chief Financial Officer, Jeremy Jones, will execute his employment contract and monitor his salary payments and benefits. You stated that you will not sign any payments for your husband.

Finally, you provided that Jerry Domengeaux owns Domengeaux's Lumber Depot, Inc. (“Lumber Depot”). Lumber Depot may sell material to Lambright during the construction of the building for the Foundation.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1119B provides no member of the immediate family of a member of a governing authority or the chief executive of a governmental entity shall be employed by the governmental entity.

La. R.S. 42:1119B(2)(a)(I) permits the school board to employ an immediate family member of a school board member and the superintendent, provided the family member is certified to teach and teaching in a classroom.

La. R.S. 42:1119C(2) provides that the provisions of this Section shall not prohibit the continued employment of any public employee nor shall it be construed to hinder, alter, or in any way affect normal promotional advancements for such public employee where a member of public employee's immediate family becomes the agency head of such public employee's agency, provided that such

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public employee has been employed in the agency for a period of at least one year prior to the member of the public employee’s immediate family becoming the agency head.

La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) states that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

La. R.S. 42:1112C allows a disqualification plan to be developed in accordance with rules adopted by the Board to remove a public servant from participating in transactions that would otherwise present violations of Section 1112 of the Code.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) would not prohibit the continued employment of your husband as a certified teacher and coach with the Slaughter Community Charter School since your promotion to Interim Director of the charter school. In addition, the Board concluded and instructed me to inform you, that the disqualification plan submitted by you complies with La. R.S. 42:1112C and the Rules for the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Gregory L. Thibodeaux
For the Board